

QUICK UPDATES

Upcoming Advance CTE and The Center to Advance CTE Board Meetings

Advance CTE Conference Call

- June 20, 2-3 p.m. ET
- Topic: FY19 budget approval

The Center to Advance CTE Conference Call

- June 20, 4-5 p.m. ET
- Topic: FY19 budget approval

State CTE Director Changes

- In March, Adkins “Trey” Michael was named **North Carolina’s** new State CTE Director. Trey previously worked in the state CTE office leading the curriculum & instruction division.
- As of March, there are now seven vacant State Director positions:
 - Alabama
 - Michigan
 - New York
 - New Jersey
 - North Dakota
 - South Carolina
 - Virginia

Priority: Develop internal PROCESSES and PROTOCOLS to ensure a strong and sustainable organization

Finance Update:

Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 102% of budgeted income
Expended 62% of budgeted expenses

The Center to Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 99% of budgeted income
Expended 30% of budgeted expenses

Fundraising

Advance CTE is currently pursuing a variety of federal, corporate and foundation contacts to discuss potential grants and contracts. Below is a chart explaining this month’s engagement with various development opportunities.

Grant/Proposal/ Contract	Organization /Partner	Engagement in Past Month	Status
Strategies for Recruiting Students into CTE	Siemens Foundation	Our new grant is well underway, with our next cohort of four states – Colorado, Idaho, New Hampshire and North Dakota – selected to receive TA and implement recruitment activities. We have also begun work on the development of a workshop for counselors to become “champions” for CTE in their communities, which will be launched at ASCA’s conference in summer 2018.	Ongoing
New Skills for Youth	JP Morgan Chase; CCSO	This work is well underway. See fuller update below.	Ongoing
Postsecondary program quality	Joyce Foundation	This project to help advance quality and rigor at the postsecondary level is underway.	Ongoing
CTE Landscape	Gates Foundation	We have secured a \$100,000 contract to develop a landscape analysis of all things CTE for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to inform their future investments in the area.	Ongoing
	Bloomberg Philanthropies	We conducted a virtual briefing for Bloomberg’s education team on CTE in mid-March.	Exploratory
Partnership for Advancing Youth Apprenticeship	New America, Siemens, TBD	We are in discussions with New America to partner with them on a multi-year project to conduct research and develop supports for states and local communities interested in scaling youth apprenticeship programs. A concept paper has been circulated to funders and the project would likely start in earnest in summer 2018.	Proposal development

Priority: Empower members through PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Membership Update

Advance CTE received eight new memberships – 2 new State Members, one Associate-State and 5 Associate, Non-state members.

Note: As the state membership implementation continues, staff are monitoring and adjusting how we report on the changes to the state membership. New individuals who are added to open spots on a state membership will be reported with all new memberships. Those that are removed and/or replaced will be reported separately. This analysis is an important part of understanding the churn and impact of the membership structure on our systems. We will continue to report monthly.

Total membership as of March 31, 2018: **452** individuals

- State Membership*: 53 states (representing 53 State Directors and 172 state members)
- Associate, State: 12
- Associate, Non-state: 111
- Organizational: 34 organizations (representing 104 individuals)

FY19 Dues Renewal

In late February, staff launched the first phase of membership dues renewal for FY19 with the renewal of our state membership dues. As part of this process, State Directors were asked to submit a dues

intent form and confirm or change the composition of their state members for the coming year. March 30 was the deadline for states to submit this information. Staff set this deadline knowing there would be follow-up needed.

To date, 36 out of 53 member states have completed one or both components of the dues renewal process. This is actually ahead of last year at this time. Staff believe increased responsiveness is due in part to having streamlined processes and a dedicated staff member who is sending regular reminders and available to answer any questions in real-time.

In April, Advance CTE will launch the second phase of its dues renewal process, which consists of notifying state members who were removed by their states and asking whether they would like to continue on as an individual member. To date, only 15 of the 172 state members have been removed, and based on a very loose review, it appears most of those individuals have actually left their positions and were replaced with the new person in that role.

Phase three will be submitting dues invoices to all individual members beginning in mid-April.

Meetings/Events

Event Name	Date	Total Participants	Total Participating Members	% of Participation Goal (if applicable)
Quarterly Advocacy Call	3/8/18	20	20	n/a
2018 Advance CTE Spring Meeting	4/6-8	219	39	118%
CTE on the Frontier webinar	5/17/18	TBD	TBD	
2018 Advance CTE Fall Meeting	10/22-24	n/a	n/a	n/a
2019 Advance CTE Spring Meeting	4/8-4/10/19	n/a	n/a	n/a

The [2018 Spring Meeting](#) will be held April 4-6 in Washington, DC. Registration has far surpassed expectations, as has sponsorships, which closed at 132% of our target. Staff will provide further analysis of the meeting in next month’s report.

Priority: Ensure the adoption and implementation of high-quality state and federal CTE POLICY.

Federal Advocacy Plan:

In March, our advocacy efforts focused on the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins), as well as the federal investment in Perkins. In addition, we engaged with Administration officials by attending meetings to discuss our work on apprenticeship. We have also continued to monitor discussions on the proposal to merge the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) with the Office of Postsecondary Education and kept Advance CTE’s members informed about a recent [letter to Secretary DeVos](#) from the House CTE Caucus co-chairs, Representatives Langevin (D-RI) and Thompson (R-PA) opposing such a shift.

Perkins: In March, we advocated for Perkins reauthorization and provided related tools for our members by:

- Meeting with staff for multiple members of the Senate HELP Committee staff,
- Discussing our legislative language with key Senate HELP Committee staff and providing additional input around key reauthorization themes identified by the staffer,
- Hosting a quarterly advocacy call for state CTE Directors, during which we provided updates on Perkins reauthorization, our new federal policy webpage and the U.S. Department of Education proposed reorganization. We also discussed and gathered input on disaggregated data for Perkins accountability indicators and Higher Education Act reauthorization.
- Attended a meeting convened by the education staffer for Rep. Krishnamoorthi to discuss ways that interested groups could help push the Senate to act in a bipartisan fashion to reauthorize Perkins.

HEA: There has not been any movement on the PROSPER Act (the HEA reauthorization bill that passed out of Committee in the House in December), and activity in the Senate has stalled. Attention is now starting to turn to individual proposals to update certain provisions within the Act. One such policy proposal is expanding eligibility for federal Pell Grants to shorter-term programs that do not currently meet the hour and length requirements in place. Advance CTE participated in a meeting organized by the National Skills Coalition that brought together many of the organizations that are interested in such a proposal and plans to remain involved in future discussions.

Budget / Appropriations: March was a big month for appropriations, given that Congress finalized the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) omnibus, which provided final allocations for most federal programs and also started to work on the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) process. A summary of the month's highlights are below:

- On March 12, we heard from a staffer for Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-CA) asking about our FY19 request for Perkins. We outlined the increased demand for CTE as well as how the Perkins Basic State Grant has been flat-funded and not adjusted for inflation, noting that our minimum ask would be \$1.3 billion for the Perkins Basic State Grants.
- On March 23, Congress passed and President Trump signed an omnibus appropriations bill for FY18. Notably, the omnibus included a [\\$75 million boost to the Perkins Basic State Grant](#), which will be allocated to states based on the federal to state formula included in Title I of Perkins.
- It is important to note that the President's FY18 Budget included a 15 percent cut to Perkins and both the House and Senate had proposed level-funding in earlier appropriations bills. The budget deal agreed to by Congress in February raised the budget caps, providing significantly higher limits for government spending, thus allowing for a number of increases across programs.
- Some notable increases (compared to FY17 levels) to education and workforce programs are outlined below:
 - Student Support and Academic Enrichment state grants, grants authorized under Title IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) received a \$700 million increase.
 - Congress authorized an increase in the maximum award for federal Pell Grants. Eligible students could receive up to \$6,095 for the 2018-2019 academic year, compared to the current \$5,920 per year.
 - State formula grants provided through Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) were increased by \$80 million.
 - Adult Education and Family Literacy State Grants were increased by \$35 million.
 - Apprenticeship grants received a \$50 million increase.
- We updated our [Funding CTE: An American Imperative](#) fact sheet to reflect this increase for Perkins as well as the chart showing [FY2004-2018 Perkins Funding Levels](#).

- On March 20, Secretary DeVos [testified](#) on the President’s FY19 Budget Request before the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee. Secretary DeVos discussed CTE briefly in her [opening statement](#) and in response to remarks from Representatives who noted their support of CTE, she said, “we would advocate for making the CTE programming through the Perkins program more flexible to reach down even into middle school to help students know and understand, again what pathways they might have beyond high school to consider.”
- Now, Congress will turn their attention to the FY19 appropriations process.
 - Representatives Langevin (D-RI) and Thompson (R-PA) led an effort to send a “Dear Colleague” letter to the leaders of the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee requesting strong funding for Perkins. A record 170 Representatives from both parties across 40 states and territories signed the letter – a strong show of support for CTE and a reflection of your advocacy efforts!
 - A similar letter led by Senator Blumenthal (D-CT), along with two of the co-chairs of the Senate CTE Caucus, Senators Baldwin (D-WI) and Kaine (D-VA), is requesting \$1.3 billion for the Perkins Basic State Grants is now circulating.

Congressional Offices Engaged in July 2016:

- Katherine McClelland, Senate HELP Committee
- Jake Baker, Senate HELP Committee
- Garnett Decosimo, Senator Enzi (R-WY)
- Karishma Merchant, Sen. Kaine (D-VA)
- Julia Sferlazzo, Senator Casey (D-PA)
- Joshua Delaney, Senator Warren (D-MA)
- Brian Kaissi, Rep. Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)
- Kerry McKittrick, Rep. Langevin (D-RI)
- Katie Morley, Representative Womack (R-AR)
- Nikki Cannon, Representative McNerney (D-CA)
- Jose Miranda, Representative Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
- James Redstone, House Committee on Education and the Workforce

State Policy Update

New Skills for Youth: Now that the New Skills for Youth initiative is in its second year, Advance CTE is building systems to organize and leverage information and best practices learned from participating states as part of a comprehensive new knowledge management strategy. Advance CTE staff spent the month of March populating a new knowledge management online “warehouse” with research and artifacts related to all ten NSFY states. With all of that information now in place, staff will develop “state profiles” which provide quick links to information on each NSFY state, including talking points, success stories and other data points.

Additionally, staff have continued work on supporting the next NSFY convening, which will take place in Providence, RI April 24-25. Attendance will be limited to the ten Phase Two states and sessions will focus on sustainability, equity and strategic planning.

Staff have also been assisting in the preparation of progress monitoring stocktakes for the NSFY states. This preparation included reviewing state self-assessments of progress and providing probing questions. Staff members also participated virtually in all of the March stocktakes. In April staff will attend an in-person stocktake in Nevada.

Joyce Foundation – Postsecondary Program Approval: Staff have approved MOUs and work plans with Illinois and Colorado, and will hold the first cross-state sharing call with those two states in April. Over the next 18 months, Illinois and Colorado will work in-depth with specific campuses, as well as statewide with campus leadership to examine and revise program approval policies, using the [Policy](#)

[Benchmark Tool](#). Advance CTE is working with a third state, Ohio, to modify their work plan for a statewide scan of program approval policies.

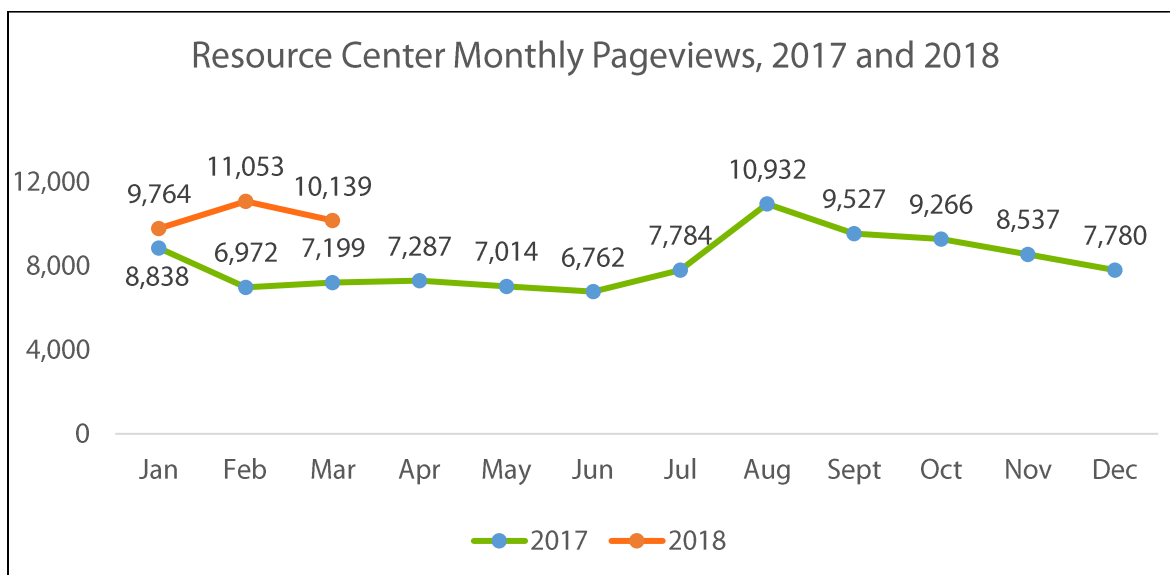
Vermont Strategic Planning: In March, staff conducted seven of ten planned stakeholder phone interviews, and assisted Vermont CTE in launching a stakeholder survey, which received over 1400 responses from numerous stakeholders across Vermont. A date was also set for a June workshop to examine the stakeholder responses and decide on strategic goals for the state CTE office.

Rural Initiative: In March, Advance CTE released the fourth installment in the *CTE on the Frontier* series, exploring strategies to strengthen the CTE teacher pipeline in rural areas. The report featured case studies from several different states and examine strategies to recruit, train and develop strong CTE teachers. In April, Advance CTE will release a short guide that draws on lessons from the series to help state leaders develop a strategy for expanding and strengthening rural CTE. The guide includes discussion questions and a facilitation guide to allow state leaders to better utilize the information contained in the full rural series. The series, which started with the first publication in August of 2017, has been well received.

NSFY Snapshots: Similar to the snapshots created to highlight states' progress during Phase One of NSFY, staff are working with a contractor to develop ten snapshots covering the Phase Two state stories of 2017. The snapshots, along with an executive summary, will be released in mid- to late April.

Equity Initiative: Staff have begun planning an organizational equity initiative, focusing on numerous equity-related topics in CTE. This work will begin at the Advance CTE Spring Meeting with a panel and breakouts focused on equity themes, and will continue with a series of briefs this summer. Additionally, Advance CTE is planning to convene members and organizational partners to serve in an advisory capacity on the initiative. More information on that will follow soon.

Resource Center: March continued the trend of increasing page views for the Resource Center, with 10,139 total views, which is almost 3,000 more page views than in March of 2017. The most visited resource was the [State of CTE: Career Advising and Development report](#), while the most visited topic page was Work-based Learning. Beginning in April, staff will begin working on designing improvements to the Resource Center site in order to further improve the functionality and aesthetics.



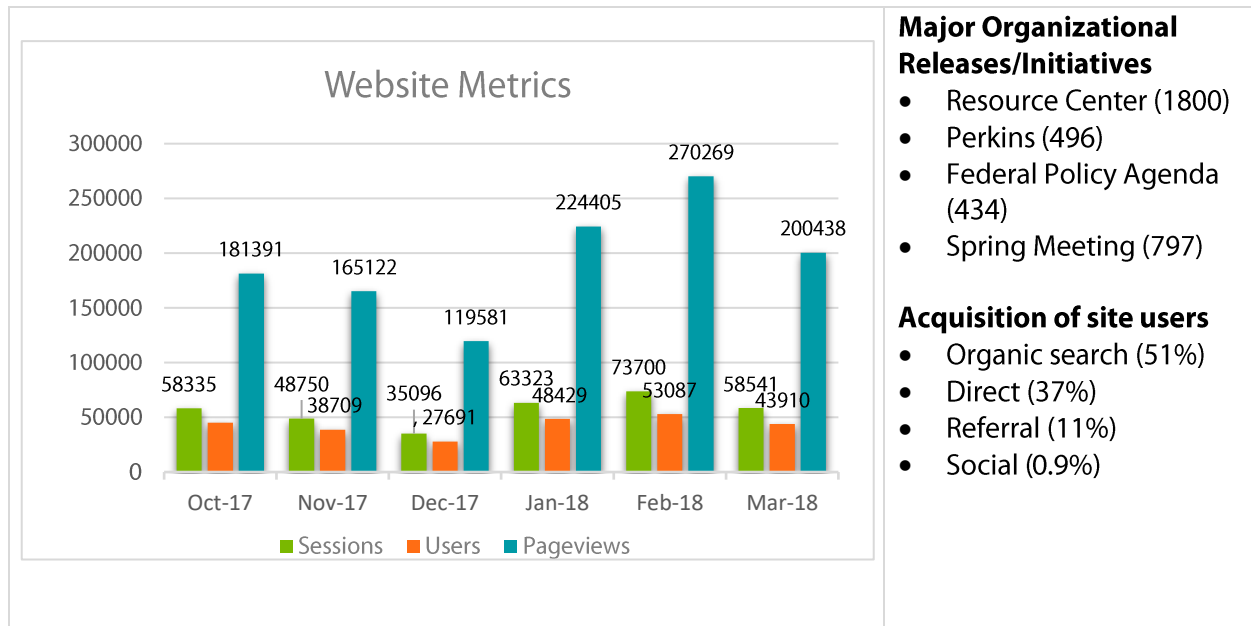
Postsecondary Update

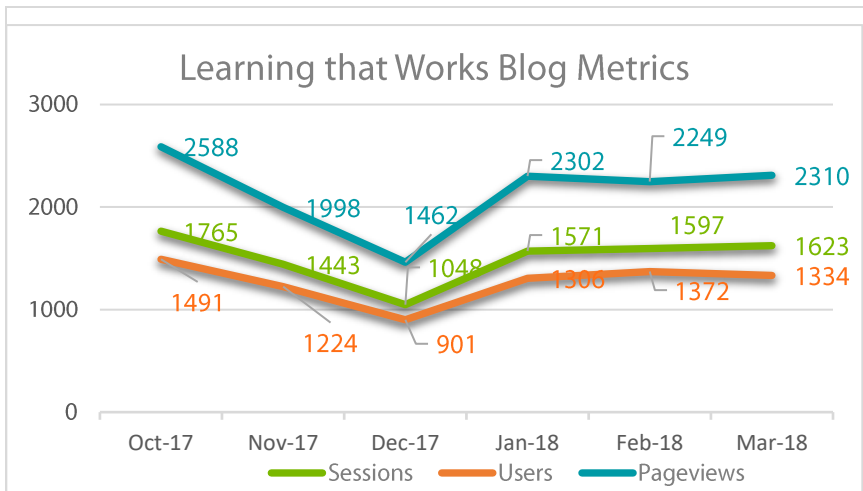
Advance CTE staff are progressing through the activities proposed in the organization’s new postsecondary strategy. The strategy is organized through the five priority areas:

- **Policy:**
 - **Federal:** Postsecondary federal policy has been a major focus for Advance CTE staff as Congress considers reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Additionally, staff have launched updated policy sections for the Advance CTE website covering both HEA and WIOA.
 - **State:** In development of the 2018 research agenda, two publications were added to the schedule focused specifically on postsecondary topics – one will focus on postsecondary program approval, and the other will focus on equity in postsecondary. Additionally, staff will release two fact sheets on postsecondary topics in April and May, respectively.
- **Promotion:** The postsecondary blog series and research requests have been delayed, as staff explore options for how best to communicate with postsecondary members separate from avenues such as newsletters and the State Director listserv, which not all postsecondary members receive.
- **Professional Development:** Advance CTE’s upcoming Spring Meeting will feature multiple postsecondary partners, with at least three sessions being dedicated specifically to postsecondary content.
- **Partnerships:** Staff have been leveraging existing partnerships with postsecondary partners, including the Joyce Foundation, to make new connections and generate new content ideas.

Priority: Raise the visibility and PROMOTION of high-quality CTE

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

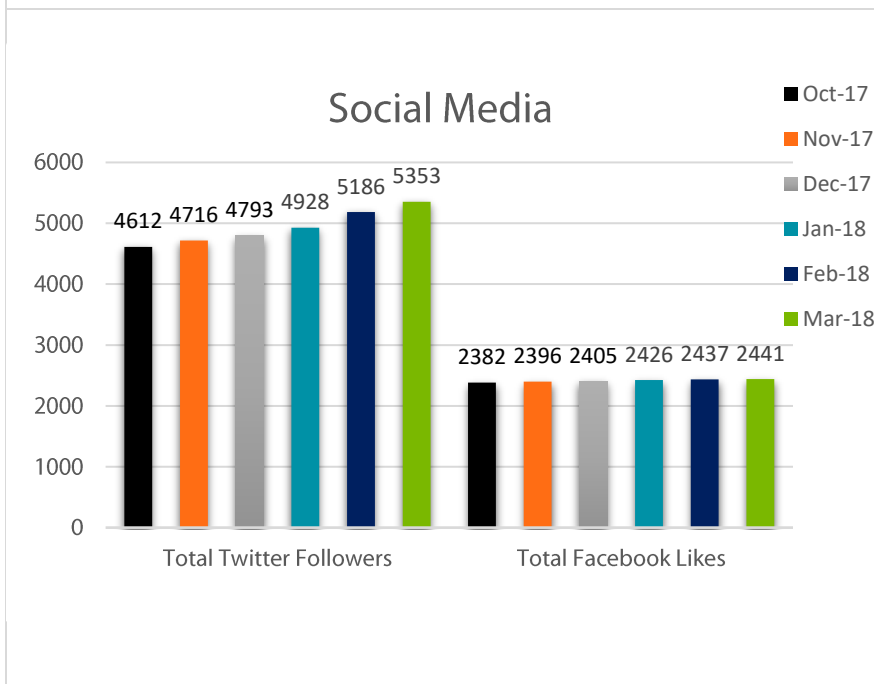




16 Blog Posts Published

Most visited blogs:

- New Fact Sheet Highlights How CTE Teacher Shortages Align with Labor Market Demands
- Welcome to Heather Justice, Texas' New State CTE Director!
- How Leading States are Strengthening the CTE Teacher Pipeline in Rural America



Facebook: +4

Twitter: +167

Media

Advance CTE conducted interviews with the Chattanooga Times Free Press and The Hechinger Report. Advance CTE staff was quoted in the [Chattanooga Times Free Press](#) and [Education Week](#) and mentioned in an op-ed in [The Hill](#).

Strategies for Attracting Students to High-Quality CTE

Advance CTE conducted the first call with the advisory committee comprised of State CTE Directors, national experts in career advising and funders. The committee was formed to provide input and feedback on Advance CTE's efforts in supporting the connection between CTE and career advising and development.

Staff began working with each state on their recruitment strategies. Additionally, staff has begun to cull through all the assets created by round one grantees to scale them up to be used by all members.

Priority: Build and maintain strong and effective PARTNERSHIPS that advance our vision and mission.

Below is a list of Advance CTE's staff most impactful or otherwise notable engagement activities from last month

<p>PRESENTATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTE's National Policy Seminar on Every Student Succeeds Act • ACTE's National Policy Seminar on communicating the value of CTE • Western Governors' Association Webinar: <i>Moving Toward Career Readiness Goals</i> • Western Governors' Association Webinar: <i>Rural Workforce Development Challenges</i> • Bloomberg Philanthropies briefing
<p>EVENTS ATTENDED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCC-CTSO Bi-Monthly Meeting • CCSSO's Legislative Conference, including Chief's only meeting on career readiness • Results for America's <i>Innovation in Higher Education: How Data & Evidence Can Improve Student Outcomes</i> • National Student Clearinghouse • National Technical Honor Society • National Association of Workforce Boards • ANSI - CAPAC Meeting • Committee for Education Funding (CEF) • PostsecData Working Group • National Skills Coalition Meeting on <i>Pell for Short-Term Credentials: Opportunities and Challenges</i> • House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing on Department of Education FY19 Budget • Apprenticeship Forward Collaborative Meeting with Rosemary Lahasky, U.S. Department of Labor • Apprenticeship Forward Collaborative Meeting with Diane Auer Jones, U.S. Department of Education
<p>OTHER PARTNERS ENGAGED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Instruments and partners on STEM white paper • AIR Center on Great Teachers and Leaders • American School Counselor Association • Achieving the Dream • National Governors Association • National Skills Coalition • Data Quality Campaign • Workforce Data Quality Campaign

March 2018

Advance CTE Newsletter

Your voice from the nation's capital



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NEW RESOURCES

Case Study: [After-school and Workforce: Opportunities for System-Level Alignment](#) (American Youth Policy Forum)

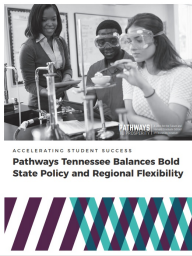
Case Study: [Accelerating Student Success: Pathways Tennessee Balances Bold State Policy and Regional Flexibility](#) (Jobs for the Future)

Dear Advance CTE Members,

Happy Spring! As I'm sure you all know, I am thrilled at last week's news that Congress increased the investment in the Perkins Basic State Grants by \$75 million in the FY 2018 omnibus! This is the first major increase in 27 years, and signals Congress' recognition that CTE is critical to our learners, and to our nation's economy. We remain committed to working with Congress and advocating on your behalf to continue this positive momentum, but count this as a win for CTE! Read our statement on the omnibus and additional exciting investments in education and workforce programs [here](#).

I'm also happy to share that we have released our fourth and final brief in our *CTE on the Frontier* series. This [brief](#) explores challenges and strategies for expanding access to high-quality career pathways in rural areas and explores one of the most pressing challenges rural schools and institutions face: strengthening the pipeline of qualified CTE teachers and faculty.

The staff and I look forward to seeing so many of you at our Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. next week! If you are attending, this is a wonderful time to meet your Congressional delegation and to share the great work you are doing on behalf of CTE. Read more in the View from the Hill section on how we can best support you in your advocacy efforts. Be sure to say "hello" to our newest staff members, Brianna and Nicole, who joined our team in



March! Read more about their background [here](#).

If you aren't able to attend the Spring Meeting in person, you can learn more on how you can stay involved in the Spring Meeting in the member's section below.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Green

➤ Member Updates

See You in April at the 2018 Spring Meeting!

Our staff are looking forward to seeing many of our members at our upcoming 2018 [Advance CTE Spring Meeting](#). For those of you who cannot attend in-person, there are still many ways in which you can access our rich content and follow along back in your states!

- Follow us on Twitter [@cteworks](#) and the hashtag: [CTESpringMtg](#)
- Access handouts and PowerPoint presentations on our [web agenda](#)
- Following the meeting, staff will post blogs about key sessions and moments

Meet Our Newest Staff Members

Advance CTE is proud to introduce our two new staff members - [Nicole Howard](#) and [Brianna McCain](#).

Nicole joins us as our Communications Associate, and will support Advance CTE's communications strategy and help states develop and refine their advocacy and communications efforts.

Brianna is our Policy Associate, and will support our state policy strategy by developing resources that support the adoption and implementation of high-quality state and federal CTE policies and maintaining our Learning that Works Resource Center.

Be sure to stop by and say hello to Nicole and Brianna at the [Spring Meeting!](#)

Learn about a New State Director

Last month, we announced that Heather Justice has taken the helm in Texas as the Division Director for College, Career and Military Preparation. Check out her [blog](#) to learn about her experience and plans for Texas!

Dues Renewal Season Approaching

For all individual and organizational members, you will receive an email in April from Advance CTE about renewing your dues for Fiscal Year 2019. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Andrea Zimmermann at azimmermann@careertech.org.

Job Opportunities in Texas and D.C.

Do you know someone who is really talented and loves CTE? Please read these job postings and share with your networks!

- [Deputy Director of CTE](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- [Director, Vermont Career and Technical Teacher Education](#) (Vermont)

➤ View from the Hill

In March, Congress' main focus was on appropriations. The Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18)

appropriations process wrapped up on March 23 with the passage of an omnibus appropriations bill, which included a \$75 million increase for the Perkins Basic State Grants (read more about the omnibus in our [statement](#)). Discussions about FY19 are also underway. As we [reported](#), Representatives Langevin (D-RI) and Thompson (R-PA) led an effort to send a "Dear Colleague" letter to the leaders of the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee requesting strong funding for Perkins. A record [170 Representatives](#) from both parties across 40 states and territories signed the letter - a strong show of support for CTE and a reflection of your advocacy efforts! Advance CTE will be sending thank you letters to these members of Congress and we encourage you to do so as well if your Representative signed on to the letter.

If you are attending Advance CTE's Spring Meeting, we would also encourage you to continue your advocacy efforts and set up meetings with the staff for your members of Congress while you are in D.C.! While this year's meeting is happening when Congress is in recess, it is still a worthwhile opportunity to meet with Congressional staff and discuss the importance of CTE, Perkins reauthorization and funding.

If you're unfamiliar with the process or just need a refresher, our partners at the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) have an excellent page on their website, [Visiting Policymakers](#), that walks you through the process of setting up the meeting, preparing for the meeting and following up after the meeting. You might also consider referencing Advance CTE resources as you prepare for your visit including, [quick facts](#) about your state's CTE system, [CTE Fact Sheets](#) and the [Become a CTE Advocate](#) website.

Don't hesitate to reach out to Kathryn Zekus (kzekus@careertech.org) if you have any questions or need assistance with any component of the process to set up and/or prepare for your meeting(s).

State Policy Overview

According to the [Education Commission of the States](#), 23 governors encouraged expanding workforce development efforts, 19 governors mentioned the need to improve postsecondary affordability, and 16 governors identified modernizing CTE as a priority. Unsurprisingly, as the 2018 legislative session moves forward, governors have recognized and announced new initiatives that highlight the importance of job readiness and CTE.

In **Iowa**, Gov. Kim Reynolds recognized the recent launch of the [Work-based Opportunity Regional Referral Consortium](#) (WORRC), a partnership with the Iowa Community Colleges and the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) to expand and improve work-based learning in the state.

In **North Carolina**, Gov. Roy Cooper announced [NC Job Ready](#), a job readiness initiative that aims to equip North Carolinians with the skills, employer guidance, and economic opportunities necessary to secure high wage, high demand careers.

For more updates on state CTE policy developments, check out Advance CTE's [state policy blog](#).

Where We've Been

Staff presented at a number of events including:

- National Policy Seminar, ACTE
- Western Governors Association, Rural Workforce Development Challenges (Webinar)

Staff also attended a number of events and meetings including:

- Chief's Only Meeting, CCSSO's Legislative Conference
- Bi-Monthly Meeting, NCC-CTSO,
- Innovation in Higher Education: How Data & Evidence Can Improve Student Outcomes, Results for America, Knowledge Alliance, America Forward
- NSFY project team meeting, CCSSO
- Pell for Short-Term Credentials: Opportunities and Challenges, National Skills Coalition
- Committee for Education Funding Meeting
- Postsecondary Data Working Group, Institute for Higher Education Policy
- Apprenticeship Forward Collaborative/U.S. Department of Labor Meeting with Rosemary Lahasky
- Hearing: FY19 Budget - Department of Education House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

 Forward to a Friend

STAY CONNECTED

